4. Details of the cases pending in the Chhattisgarh High Court during the last three years is as follows:

Pending as on	Main cases	Misc. cases	Total
31.12.2004	47810	15922	63732
31.12.2005	52283	20620	72903
31.12.2006	61378	24249	85627

Vacant posts of judges in High Courts

4174. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of vacancies of High Court judges as on the 31st March, 2007, State-wise;

(b) the number of vacancies filled during the last five years all over the country, State-wise and year-wise; and

(c) the category-wise details of High Court judges as on the 31st March, 2007 (General, SC, ST, Minority and Women)?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Statistics regarding the vacancies of judges is maintained High Court wise. A Statement showing the number of vacancies filled during the years 2002-06 and vacancies as on 31.3.2007, High court-wise is enclosed (*See* below).

(c) Appointment of Judges of the High Courts is made under articles 217 of the Constitution of India, which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. No statistics is, therefore, maintained in this regard.

The Central Government, has however, been writing to the Chief Ministers of the States and the Chief Justices of the High Courts, from time to time, requesting them to locate suitable persons from the Bar belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Minorities and Women for appointment as High Court Judges.

There were 39 Women Judges in the High Courts as on 31st March, 2007.

Statement

High Court-wise details of vacancies of Judges

Sl.No.	High Court	Number of vacancies filled during the year					Vacancies as on
		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	31.3.2007
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Allahabad	33	2	16	17	10	14
2	Andhra Pradesh	4	—	—	5	6	5
3	Bombay	3	8	5	5	8	6
4.	Calcutta	7	3	5	—	16	6
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	1	3	2	—	2
6.	Delhi	4	—	5	2	12	4
7.	Gauhati	3	2	6	—	6	2
8.	Gujarat	—	—	7	3	—	11
9.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	1	2	3	—
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	2	1	3	—	6
11	Jharkhand	7	—	1	—	4	2
12	Karnataka	4	8	2	4	4	7
13	Kerala	4	—	8	2	—	4
14	Madhya Pradesh	5	5	7	12	3	—
15	Madras	—	9	—	17	7	—
16	Orissa	1	1	5	—	1	6
17	Patna	3	1	4	4	13	1
18	Punjab & Haryana	7	—	8	—	13	5
19	Rajasthan	2	—	6	8	3	6
20.	Sikkim	—	—	1	—	—	—
21.	Uttaranchal	2	1	4	—	1	—
	TOTAL:	89	43	95	86	110	87

Amendments in Representation of People Act

†4175. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that Parliamentary Standing committee has recommended to carry out amendments in Representation of People Act, 1951 in order to keep criminals out of election;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.